

Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Santa greets Col. Sam Angelella at the 20th Fighter Wing Holiday Party Saturday.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community. Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at **895-4611** or e-mailed to **commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil**.

Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in *The Shaw Spirit*.

Q Since the Fit-to-Fight program mandates fitness at least three times a week now, we need to resurface or add another track on base. The old track is in poor condition and could cause injury to runners. We need a rubberized surface or some modern material.

A Thank you for your suggestion. The jogging/bike path concept has been given a construction project number and will be presented at the next Facility Board for possible fiscal year 2004 funding. A work order was also submitted for upgrades to our outdoor track, which will include resurfacing with a rubberized surface. We hope to get this project funded in FY 04 as well.

Shaw leader offers thanks, tribute

By Col. Sam Angelella
20th Fighter Wing commander

To the mighty men and women of Team Shaw, As 2003 draws to a close, I recall with extreme pride our significant accomplishments this past year -- most notably, what outstanding professionals who fearlessly and efficiently answered the daunting call of arms! We successfully deployed and redeployed aircraft, people and supplies to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Those who remained here rose equally to the challenge of continuing our wing mission and taking care of the families of our deployed members. Sunday, we learned our efforts were rewarded with Saddam's capture.

You have accomplished great things this year, including an "outstanding" 9th Air Force Standardization Evaluation Inspection and an "outstanding" Air Force Inspection Agency Health Services Inspection. You completed the best ever biennial Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection, and the first ever Active-Duty Alert Force Inspection. You also earned the Air Combat Command nomination for the Air Force Hennessey Award, and flight nominations by ACC in the Component Maintenance and Civil Engineer Squadrons for 2004 Installation Excellence awards. Well done!

Now, it's time to enjoy a well-deserved break before another busy year ahead. Make safety a top priority during all your activities, and use a designated driver if you plan to drink alcohol. Also, don't drive too long without taking an appropriate break.

Most importantly, let us remember the global war on terror is not over. We have nearly 600 Team Shaw members still deployed for various contingencies around the world. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers, and remain a valued support network for their families.

As a fitting tribute to our coalition forces, I share the following account written by a deployed Shaw member working in an emergency room:

BAGHDAD, IRAQ -- We had a trauma not 36 hours prior and tonight was my night off. I was

snuggled down in my cot when the giant voice announced: "All EMEDS report in." I threw on my shoes, grabbed my stethoscope and ran. On my heels came three critical patients fresh from the battle. They'd been out on patrol and come upon three improvised explosive devices and an ambush. The trauma surgeons took the two most critical patients and I finished triage and crowd control.

We had one patient left who wasn't as critical and was stable for the time being. "Jeff" was the squad leader for the other two patients. His eyes were old. His first words were about his men. He told us one, "John" (the most critical case), had no family....his family was this squad. They had been in Iraq a year and John was due to rotate out in four days. Not a scratch and now this! Throughout, we were caring for Jeff. We saw at least four gunshot wounds - and still he talked about his guys.

We assured Jeff his people were getting everything they needed and John was in surgery with the "A" team. We cleaned Jeff's wounds while waiting for the surgeons to finish with John. Jeff escaped with shrapnel in his legs and bullet wounds. During most of

the X-rays, I had been holding Jeff's hand. We finished all the X-rays and Jeff looked at me and asked if I would hold his hand just a little longer. I looked into his eyes and realized for the first time just how young he was -- 23 years old.

In the heat of the moment, we sometimes forget how powerful the human touch can be. I continued to hold his hand until we knew he would not need surgery.

The next day, I went to see Jeff and found his commander there. Jeff's first words to his commander were about his people and the awesome care they received. This man was 23 years old and living the ideals of loyalty, professionalism and courage. Never let it be said patients can't teach you a thing or two.

Small things make a difference over here. Never did I hear this man say we should not be fighting this war. I am incredibly proud to be here and be part of the team.

I hope this portrayal makes all of you proud to be United States Air Force members. Marci and I wish you a safe and blessed holiday season.



The Shaw Spirit

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Holiday messages

By Gen. Richard B. Myers
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

For generations, U.S. servicemen and women and government civilians have spent the holiday season far from loved ones so all Americans could celebrate the peace, prosperity and liberty our Armed Forces have fought to protect.

Today, you continue to keep steadfast watch across the globe, from bases on land, planes overhead and ships at sea; from distant, remote locations and within our own borders.

During this holiday season, the United States is asking much of you -- and you are responding with a strong sense of duty, a willingness to give up personal comfort for the greater good, and the professionalism that has earned our military services honor and respect throughout the world. It is never easy to be away from home, but especially during the holiday season. The courage, patriotism and unconditional support of families and loved ones mean so very much.

Your service and the sacrifices of your families come at a crucial moment in our nation's history. Your dedicated work is making the world a better, safer and more peaceful place. I am inspired by your character and courage, and I am extremely proud to serve with you.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff join me in sending to you and your families our very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

By Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

To our airmen stationed at home and abroad and their families -- Sherry and I send our warmest wishes to you this holiday season. It is an honor for us to serve in our United States Air Force with each of you.

The holidays bring to mind families gathered around tables stuffed with food and children opening gifts while parents look on. We know deployments will cause many military families to have an empty seat at the table this year.

If you are one of those families, please know your sacrifice does not go unnoticed. It is because of you and fellow airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen that Americans can gather, worship and celebrate in freedom.

As we enjoy this holiday season and prepare to usher in a new year, Sherry and I thank you for your continued dedication and commitment. May God richly bless you, your family and our great nation.

LOA conference gives insight

By 2nd Lt. Erik Saracino
20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Recently, I attended the 2003 Logistics Officers Association National Conference. In addition to discussions of micro-level logistics operations, Air Force top leaders, including Dr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, spoke about transformation and mentorship.

Even though I felt familiar with each topic, where else could I get a view from the top by three- and four-star generals capped off by the Secretary of the Air Force? This was definitely a time for me to sit back, absorb and learn as much information as possible. I want to share some of what I learned with you, because as vital as logistics is to the fight by moving people and equipment, moving knowledge from one person to another makes us all stronger.

One of the conference topics centered on the growth of business enterprise and transformation as they affect logistics operations.

Logistics is growing as an organization and is building strong networks. We are undertaking bold and difficult projects of performing at higher levels as we face the challenges of the new century. As I thought about this, I considered how each unit is really the same way.

Due to manning, funding or operations tempo, we all face challenges in accomplishing our part of the mission. But, looking at it in a logistics view, we need to build strong networks in our work centers. How many times has someone in your shop gone TDY, on leave or deployed and no one knew how

to accomplish one of their tasks? By having to "reinvent the wheel," there is a loss of time. Valuable lessons may have to be relearned, because the person never shared their knowledge. While in the civilian world job security can be a problem, in the military, training others to do your job doesn't put yours at risk. On the contrary, it makes you a good supervisor and ready to move up because there are people who can replace you.

Another topic of the conference was how to implement transformation.

How many times have you questioned a practice and the only answer given was, "That's the way we've always done it"? As Air Force members, we must use new tools and means to not only meet the needs of today but prepare for the future. We must continually analyze and improve our methods or we can quickly lose our lead. A good illustration of this is a person riding a bicycle uphill. They have to continually push themselves to peddle. If they stop, they don't maintain their position, and start to go backward. The biggest driving factor in ensuring we move forward hinges on the ability to provide strong consistent leadership and support.

The last point stressed at the conference is the need for mentorship.

We need to ensure our troops are getting the recognition they truly deserve. Don't let e-mail let you lose sight of the importance of interpersonal communication. Get out there and dive right in with your people. Let them see you lead by example. It's much better when your subordinates can say of you, "Well done," rather than "Well said." (Staff Sgt. Lee Watts contributed to this article.)

What is the weirdest gift you've ever received?



Senior Airman Aaron White, 20th Security Forces Squadron -- "I got a musical clock that sings *It's a Small World*. It was recycled to me and I'll be giving it to another lucky person."



Senior Airman Latasha Griffith, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron -- "My *twin* sister once gave me a framed picture of herself."



Staff Sgt. Nathan Horton, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron -- "I received a kerosene lamp once and a pair of mismatched socks."



Senior Airman Sheryln Homod, 609th Combat Plans Squadron -- "My husband gave me perfume and a CD I already had, and once tried to give me my own money."